



CITY OF AUBURN

Planning & Development Department
Auburn City Hall Annex, 2nd Floor
1 East Main Street
Auburn, Washington 98001-4998
Tel: 253.931.3090
Fax: 253.804.3114
permitcenter@auburnwa.gov
www.auburnwa.gov

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Proposed amendments related to the keeping of animals within the City of Auburn**
2. Name of Applicant: **Thaniel Gouk, Senior Planner, City of Auburn**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
A. Applicant: **25 West Main St Auburn, WA 98001** Agent (if applicable): **n/a**
4. Date checklist prepared: **4/28/16**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **City of Auburn**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Presentation to Planning Commission: May 3, 2016; Planning Commission Public Hearing: May 17, 2016; City Council Study Session: May 23, 2016; City Council First Reading of Ordinance: June 6, 2016; City Council Second Reading (potential adoption): June 20, 2016.**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **None.**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **None.**
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. **None.**
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
The City of Auburn Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed code amendments addressed in this environmental checklist and will forward a recommendation to the Auburn City Council. The City Council may or may not hold a public hearing prior to taking action adopting, adopting in part, or not adopting the amendments.

Although not an approval or permit, the proposed zoning text amendments are also subject to the 60-day State Agency review process pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106. The City has requested expedited review.
11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You need not repeat those answers on this page. **The proposed amendments would combine two existing sections of Auburn City Code relating to the keeping of animals; add rules and regulations for keeping honey bees; clarify areas of these Code sections that are currently vague, including animal size definitions and keeping of domestic fowl.**

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. **The proposed amendments would apply City wide.**

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- A. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other. **The City of Auburn is characterized by a relatively flat valley floor bordered by steep hillsides that plateau.**
- B. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **The slope of the valley walls in the city varies, but some slopes associated with the valley walls reach 100%. Most sites on the valley floor have limited slopes.**
- C. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. **The valley floor is made up primarily of soils of the Oridia, Renton, Snohomish and Briscott series. These soils are fairly poorly drained and formed in the alluvium (river sediments) associated with the White and Green rivers. These are considered good agricultural soils, though in many areas, are not well-drained. There is no designated prime farmland within the City of Auburn.**

The soils in the uplands are predominantly of the Alderwood series. These soils drain moderately well and are typically located on slopes ranging from 0 - 70%.

- D. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **Many factors affect slope stability including soil type, parent material, slope and drainage. These factors can be further affected by human intervention such as slope alteration, and vegetation removal. The city has identified categories of geologic hazard areas and inventoried these areas.**
- E. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. **None – this is a non-project action.**
- F. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**
- G. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **None – this is a non-project action and does not involve site specific development proposals.**
- H. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth. **None- this is a non-project action.**

2. Air

- A. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if know. **None – this is a non-project action.**

- B. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odors that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **Not applicable – this is a non-project action..**
- C. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **None – this is a non-project action.**

3. Water

A. Surface

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands): If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. **The major bodies of water within Auburn are the Green River, the White River, Mill Creek, Bowman Creek, and White Lake. The City has conducted an inventory of wetlands within the City limits.**
- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. **No – this is a non-project action.**
- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. **None – this is a non-project action..**
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No – this is a non-project action.**
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **This proposal is non-action, however, several areas within Auburn lie within the 100-year floodplain of the Green or White River and Mill Creek.**
- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. **No – this is a non-project action.**

B. Ground

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No – this is a non-project action.**
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: domestic sewage; industrial, containing any toxic chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) is (are) expected to serve. **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**

C. Water Runoff (including storm water)

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**
- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**

- D. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: **Not applicable – this is a non-project action..**

4. Plants

- A. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- ✓ Deciduous Tree: Alder, Maple, Aspen, Other
- ✓ Evergreen Tree: Fir, Cedar, Pine, Other
- ✓ Shrubs
- ✓ Grass
- ✓ Pasture
- ✓ Crop or Grain
- ✓ Wet Soil Plants: Cattail, Buttercup, Bullrush, Skunk Cabbage, Other
- ✓ Water Plants: Water Lily, Eelgrass, Milfoil, Other
- ✓ Other Types of Vegetation

- B. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? **None – this is a non-project action.**

- C. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site: **It is likely that threatened or endangered species are located permanently or temporarily in areas of the City.**

- D. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**

5. Animals

- A. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

- Birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: geese, ducks, crows, etc.**
 - Mammals: **deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:**
 - Fish: bass, **salmon, trout**, herring, shellfish, other: **urban animals such as dogs, cats, squirrels, rodents, opossums, raccoons, etc. are also present in the City.**
- B. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **It is likely that threatened or endangered species are located permanently or temporarily in areas of the City..**
- C. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **The Green River Valley is part of the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds.**
- D. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **Not-applicable – this is a non-project action.**

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- A. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. **Not-applicable – this is a non-project action.**
- B. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. **Not-applicable – this is a non-project action.**
- C. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: **Not-applicable – this is a non-project action.**

7. Environmental Health

- A. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. **Not-applicable – this is a non-project action.**
- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required: **Not-applicable – this is a non-project action..**
- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **Not-applicable – this is a non-project action.**

8. Noise

- A. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **Not-applicable – this is a non-project action.**
- B. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. **Not-applicable – this is a non-project action. However, animals, including honey bees, in general do make some levels of noise.**
- C. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impact, if any: **Not-applicable – this is a non-project action. However, the City has noise ordinances to regulate any potential impacts.**

9. Land and Shoreline Use

- A. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? **The proposed amendments mainly apply to residential areas.**
- B. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe: **Much of the Green River Valley and the City of Auburn were used for agriculture at some time in the past. Over the last several decades, rapid growth in the area resulted in much of the agricultural land converting to urban uses. No land within the City is designated as agricultural, though some parcels continue as that type of use.**
- C. Describe any structures on the site: **Structures within the City range from small single family detached homes to large industrial and warehousing facilities. These potential amendments mainly apply to residential areas.**
- D. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**
- E. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **The City has numerous zoning designations; these proposed amendments would mainly apply to the residential zones (R-1, R-5, R-7, R-10, and R-20). The amendments could also apply to a residence that has a commercial or other type of zoning district applied.**
- F. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **The City has numerous Comprehensive Plan designations; the proposed amendments would mainly apply to residential designations along with existing residences that have a commercial or other type of designation.**
- G. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **Portions of the City along the Green and White Rivers fall under the Shoreline Master Program. Zoning districts that are applicable to this proposed code amendment do fall within the City's Shoreline Management area.**

- H. Has any part of the site been classified as an “environmentally sensitive” area? If so, specify: **Not applicable – this is a non-project action. However, areas of the City do contain sensitive areas and those are addressed through the City’s Critical Areas Ordinance.**
- I. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **None.**
- J. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **None.**
- K. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **None.**
- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **The proposed amendments aim to help ensure compatibility between existing and projected land uses by further clarifying rules for keeping animals.**

HOUSING

- A. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **None.**
- B. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **None.**
- C. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: **None.**

AESTHETICS

- A. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? **Not applicable – this is a non-project action. However, the height limit for accessory structures is 16 ft.**
- B. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **Not applicable – this is a non-project action. However, accessory structures are allowed; these proposed amendments do not allow these structures to be any less (e.g. closer to property lines, etc.).**
- C. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **None.**

LIGHT AND GLARE

1. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**
2. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**
3. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**
4. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**

RECREATION

1. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**

2. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **No.**
3. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: **None.**

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

1. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe: **There are several properties/buildings located within the City that are on registers.**
2. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. **In general, the City has many landmarks such as Indian campsites and environmentally sensitive areas. The proposed amendments would not increase potential impacts to any landmarks.**
3. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: **None – this is a non-project action.**

TRANSPORTATION

1. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**
2. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**
3. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? **None.** How many would the project eliminate? **None.**
4. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private): **No.**
5. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe: **Not applicable – this is a non-project action.**
6. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. **None.**
7. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **None**

PUBLIC SERVICES

1. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe: **No.**
2. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impact on public services, if any: **None.**

UTILITIES

1. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other: **All of the above are available within the City.**
2. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed: **None.**

SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

OWNER/AGENT SIGNATURE: *[Signature on File]*

DATE SUBMITTED: *April 28, 2016*

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent of the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal that would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise? **The potential for animal waste would discharging would not increase with the proposed amendments. The City's nuisance Codes are in place for enforcement in the event a citizen allows any discharge violating local, State or Federal rules.**
 - A. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are: **The proposed amendments will help the City's Code Enforcement Officers, along with other applicable City Staff, to educate citizens that have, or are looking to have, animals.**
2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life? **Animals are generally required to be contained on-site; as such, no impacts to the natural environment is expected.**
 - A. Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are: **Continued enforcement of the City's Codes relating to the keeping of animals and nuisances.**
3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources? **The proposed amendments would not deplete energy or natural resources.**
 - A. Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are: **None.**
4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands? **The proposed amendments in and of itself would not further risk any sensitive areas.**
 - A. Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are: **Continued enforcement of the City's regulations.**
5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans? **The proposed amendments would help make the keeping of animals more compatible with neighboring properties.**
 - A. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are: **The comprehensive plan, critical areas ordinance, and other development regulations, such as the zoning ordinance and shoreline master program, seek to protect these land and shoreline resources and to reduce the effects of development on them.**
6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities? **No additional resources would be required with the proposed amendments.**
 - A. Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are: **None.**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. **The proposal does not appear to present any conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements.**